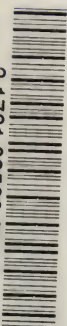


3 1761 03580 2354



HV
9481
L62L86
1725a



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
University of Toronto

THE
Present STATE
OF THE
PRISON
OF
LUDGATE.

Fully Discovering

All its Customs, Priviledges, and Advantages, whereby it exceeds all other Prisons, and particularly shewing what Treatment the Prisoners meet with from their first Entrance to their Discharge.

To which are added,

Useful REMARKS and Pertinent OBSERVATIONS on the former State thereof.

Interspers'd

With divers pleasant Relations of the Humours of the Prisoners of both Sexes therein, with respect to their way of Living, Marriages, Burials, and manner of Government among them: Together with an Account of divers Impositions and Innovations lately introduc'd, worthy the Consideration of all Freemen of this City.

The whole very entertaining as well as useful; and necessary to be read by all Persons who would be inform'd of the Nature of Confinement in General, whereby they will perceive that Imprisonment is not so exceeding Dreadful as some imagine, nor so slight a Misfortune as the severe part of Mankind account it.

Humbly Dedicated to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Common Council of this City.

L O N D O N :

Printed for and sold by *A. Baldwin*, at the *Oxford Arms*
(Price One Shilling)



HW
9481
L62
L86
17252

To the Right Honourable
the Lord Mayor, the
Court of Aldermen, She-
riffs, and Common Coun-
cil of London.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

With all due Submis-
sion and Respect,
the following Sheets,
being an Account of the pre-
sent State of Ludgate, (accor-
ding to the best Observations
and Informations that could be
procured) are presented to your
View and Consideration: To
whom the Care of maintaining
the

Dedication:

the Privileges of every Freeman, even when reduc'd to the unhappy Condition of a Prisoner, doth most properly belong, and who are invested with Authority to inspect, and rectify all Incroachments that have, or may be made thereupon: That so the Benefits which our Ancestors (who demonstrated the esteem they had for the Quality of a Freeman of this Honourable City, by appropriating such Privileges to Ludgate, as rendred it preferable to all the Prisons in England) have obtained, may not be alienated, or the charitable intent of those well-disposed Persons frustrated

Dedication.

frustrated, who in tender Compassion to the Miseries of their fellow Citizens, falling under such Calamities, have, or may bestow Gifts or Legacies for their Relief.

The greatest Motive that induces the Author to hope you will favourably accept what he here most humbly lays before you, is, that your Interest as well as Honour is concern'd, to exert your Authority in detecting and regulating the Abuses therein hinted at; since it is evident, that the strictest Precaution does not always secure Citizens (even of the highest Rank) from falling into Adversity.

Dedication.

sity. Or at least, if this Generation may think themselves safe, no Man is able so far to warrant the success of the following, as that none of them may be reduced to the Misery of Confinement. Which that your latest Posterity may never have occasion to experience, is the hearty desire of your humble Servant and fellow Citizen

Philopolites.

The Present

S T A T E

O F

L U D G A T E, &c.

Of the Foundation.

LUDGATE, one of the Western Gates of the famous City of London, suppos'd to receive its Name from King *Lud*, as built by him, Anno Christi 66. was made a Prison for Freemen Anno 1377. Sir *Nicholas Brember* being Mayor, which was confirm'd in the Year 1382, by a Common Council in the *Guild-Hall*: By which it was ordained, That all Freemen of the said City should for Debt, Trespases, Accompts, and Con-
 B tempts,

tempts, be imprisoned in *Ludgate*. In the
 3d of *Edw. IV.* Sir *Matthew Philips* being
 Mayor, Dame *Agnes Foster*, Relict of Sir
Stephen Foster, Fishmonger, (who had been
 Mayor some Years before) for the Comfort
 and Relief of all the Poor Prisoners, pro-
 cured an Establishment of certain Articles
 in Common Council, (*viz.*) That the new
 Works, then lately edify'd by the same
 Dame *Agnes*, for the enlarging of the Pri-
 son of *Ludgate*, should be had and taken
 as a part and parcel of the said Prison of
Ludgate; so that both the Old and New
 Work aforesaid, be one Prison, Good
 Keeping and Charge for evermore. Where
 they were to pay nothing for Water and
 Lodging, according to an Inscription on
 a Copper Plate mentioned by *Stow*.

*For Water and Lodging here's nothing to pay,
 As the Keeper will answer at great Doomsday.*

Which said Copper Plate is reported
 have hung there in the Memory of some
 Persons living, though not now to be
 seen.

Thus much for its Foundation. Now
 to its Description as follows:

The Description.

THE Gate rises with a stately Stone Arch for the passage of Carriages, on either side of which is a Postern Gate for foot Passengers. The Frontispiece on the East-side against *St. Paul's*, is adorned with the Statues of King *Lud* and his two Sons, over which is the Arms of Queen *Elizabeth*, whose Statue adorns it on the West side also fronting *Fleet-street*, and in whose 28th Year it was repaired at the common Charge of the City, amounting to 1500 *l.* The Roof is covered with lead, from whence arises a Turret, whereon is a Clock with two Dials, answering each Front. On the South-side within, adjoining thereto, is the building, erected by the aforesaid Dame *Agnes Foster*, covered with Lead also, on which the Prisoners have Liberty to walk for their Refreshment; this Part of the Prison is now called the Common-Side; of which more hereafter. Having viewed the outside, now let us enter; which we may do by a large Door joining to the Southern Postern, whence ascending 6 Steps, the first thing observable is a large Box on the Right hand, over which is a Board with this inscription painted on it.

These are to satisfy all that are willing to give their Charity to this House, that the Money is put into this Box, which hath Three Locks; one Key being kept by the Keeper, another by the Master of the Box, and the third by the Assistant of the Day; and no Money to be taken out without their mutual Consent, to be justly distributed among the Prisoners.

Opposite to this on the Left, is a little Door which opens into the Office, so called because all Prisoners are there received by the Deputy-Keeper, or Turn-key, and their Names, with the Day of their commencing Prisoners, are, or ought to be there entered in a Book for that purpose, as will appear when we come to speak of the Orders of the House.

Within this Place, is a large Room for People to drink in, which of late hath borrowed the Name of the Office also, from its near Situation thereto; but formerly called the Rules, when there was a Passage to it from the common Prison, (which is now shut up) being then free for all the Prisoners to have recourse to, at all time of the Day; where was kept a good Fire to their no small Benefit in the Winter Season. But such is the Ingenuity of the present

ent Deputy-Keeper, that he has abridg'd them of that Priviledge, in order to make Perquisite to the Turn-keys Office, by paying a Tax of One Half-penny extraordinary on every full Pot of Drink more than is paid in the Cellar; which the Poor Prisoners, or their Friends that come to visit them, must pay, for enjoying the benefit of drinking with them in that Place, tho' they can have much better Beer from A-broad, for One Penny in a full Pot less: Besides which, the Turn-key has the advantage of selling other distill'd Liquors (which he does in unsealed Measures) to reimburse himself for the Money he gives for his Place; he was wont formerly to be paid a Salary by the Deputy-Keeper, who by this contrivance makes a Penny now of that Service, which before he was wont to pay Wages for. To this Room many of the Prisoners are admitted, by being let out at the Hatch (or Door of the Prison that is kept always lock'd) provided they call plentifully for Liquors, where they are under no Lock, but have the opportunity (if they are good Customers) to stand below at the outmost Door of the Prison, and speak to their Friends as they pass by; upon which hangs a pleasant Tale, *viz.*

About Midsummer last, a certain Prisoner, whose Debts were somewhat considerable,

siderable, having first privately sent away what Cloaths and other Effects he had in the Prison, came into this Office on a *Sunday* Morning between 9 and 10 a Clock; and inviting the Turn-keys and the Prisoners present, to Breakfast on a Dish of fous'd Mackarel that he had procured; while they were all busily employed in eating it, he took the opportunity of walking off, and has never been heard of since, nor was he ever missed till after Four in the Afternoon. Hereupon, the Door of the Leads was shut up almost a Fortnight, to the great annoyance of the Prisoners in that hot Season, on pretence, that he had made his escape over the Houses, in order (as may be presumed) that the Deputy-Keeper might make the easier Terms with the Sheriffs, being perhaps not willing to let them know what Opportunities he gives the Prisoners, by letting them out of the Hatch, for the sake of his own Interest.

The next thing observable is the Hatch, where the Under-Turn-key continually attends, which opens into the Prison; where, as soon as you enter, by turning on the Right Hand, you come into a large Room called the *Lumbry*, where just within the Door on the Left is the Stocks, for punishing Offenders; of which more when we come to treat of the Government of

the House. At a large Window stands one or other of the Prisoners all Day, begging Money of such as pass by in *Black-Fryars*; near to which Window is a Table, where the Steward, &c. takes account 3 times a Day of what Money is given into the Boxes; of which more hereafter.

A little within the Door on the Right, are the Stairs leading to the Cellar, where Drink, Tobacco, &c. are sold, *but no Trust by Retail*; that is to say, He that will Drink plentifully and entice others to excess, shall have Credit; but he that asks it in Necessity, shall be refused a single Pint of Beer to relieve him. Over against the Cellar Stairs, is a large Cistern supply'd with Water from the *Thames*, which not many Years since, was stored with Spring Water, according to the Will of the Donor, *Dame Agnes Foster* aforesaid. A little from hence is an Iron Grate, which opens into the South Postern under the Gate, where some Prisoner begs also Money of such as pass by there; near to which is the House of Office for the Men Prisoners. In a corner by the Cellar Stairs is a handsom Stair-Case, enlightned from above by a large Sky-light; where ascending 11 or 12 Steps, you may observe a little Room over the Postern, called the XVIII. sometimes used for a Drinking Room,

ad.

adjoyning to which are two other Rooms, now occupied by the Cellar-Keeper; but formerly, when the Incomes of the Prison were not improved to so great an height, they served for a Lodging for the Deputy-Keeper.

A few Steps higher is the first Floor, where as soon as you are ascended, a Door opens into a large place called the *White Room*, furnished with a long Table and Benches, and a large Chimney, where every *Sunday* is made Broth of Chumps of Beef, being a certain allowance to the Prison, hereafter to be mentioned; of which Broth every Prisoner, after paying his Dues, may, if he please, partake.

In this Room, according to the Order of Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, on the first *Tuesday* in every Month is an Election of *Steward*, and other Officers, for the Government of the Prison; and here the said *Steward* and *Assistants* meet to dispatch the Publick Affairs; of which more under the Head of Government.

Here hang the Orders of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, fairly ingross'd and set in Frames, for an Ornament to the Room, according to an expression the Turnkey not long since let fall, who indeed was much in the right, inasmuch as (like an old Almanack) they are at present some
wha

that out of date. Copies of which Orders
as followeth.

*Fees to be taken by the Keeper of Ludgate
and the Turn-keys under him, allowed of
and confirmed at a Court of Aldermen,
holden the 19th Day of January 1686.
in the Mayoralty of Sir Robert Jefferies
Knt. Lord Mayor of the City of London,
as followeth.*

	l.	s.	d.
At the coming in of every Prisoner to the Turn-key	00	01	00
To the Officer that goes with him thither	00	00	02
To the Keeper for every Priso- ner's Discharge	00	02	00
For all Actions and Writs against any Prisoner Twelve Pence only, and not Twelve Pence for every Action, and Two and Six Pence for every Writ, as formerly he took	00	01	00
The Keeper finding and provi- ding Sheets every Month for every Bed, such Prisoners that lye therein are to pay to the Chamberlain, for washing them, every Month between them, Eight Pence <i>per</i> Month, and no more, and not each Prisoner that lies therein to pay Eight Pence	00	00	08

The Keeper finding and providing Beds, Bedding, Mats and Cor'ds, Sheets, Blankets and Coverlets, the Prisoners to pay him for the best Lodging *per* Night } 00 00 03

For the second Lodging *per* Night } 00 00 02

But when the Prisoners find their own Bed and Bedding, which the Keeper is in no Case to hinder, the Prisoner is only to pay Three Pence *per* Week for Bed Room, and no more: } 00 00 03

Or for Chamber Room, Four Pence at the most *per* Week, and not above two to lye in a Bed. } 00 00 04

If the Prisoner by his inability can go no further than a Couch, he is to pay only one Penny *per* Week for Chamber Room, and no more. } 00 00 01

And the like for Lamps and Candles, which the Keeper is to provide, One Penny *per* Week and no more } 00 00 01

The Keeper shall not presume to take any other Fees, upon any pretence, demand,

and, or allowance whatsoever, for Execution Money, Action Money, or Writ Money.

GIBSON.

Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, to be observ'd by the Keeper of Ludgate, settled at a Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, holden on Tuesday the 18th Day of May 1694. in the time of Mayoralty of Sir William Ashurst, Knt. Lord Mayor of the City of London, as followeth, viz.

THAT the Keeper upon every first Tuesday in the Month, (according to former Custom) order the Bell to be rung, between the Hours of Ten and Twelve in the Forenoon, for the conveying all the Prisoners in the White Room, where a Steward for the House, or Master of the Box, and also an Out-Steward with seven Assistants, shall be chosen for the Month ensuing by the Majority of Voices.

II. If the Master Keeper neglect, or refuse to call the Prisoners together, as before directed, then the Steward or Assistants

ants shall call them together, between the Hours of Twelve and Two of the same Day, to elect the said Officers, which shall be as valid as if the said Keeper were present.

III. That the Tapster, or Cellar-Man, be incapable of being chosen into any Office.

IV. That the Keeper, or Turn-key, give account in Writing to the Overseers, Steward, or Assistants of the Prison, of all the Charities or annual Legacies that are paid for the Relief or Release of Prisoners, of the time when and place where they are to be receiv'd, that so they may be entred down in their Books of Legacies; together with other Gifts or Legacies, which shall hereafter be sent or paid, for the Relief or Release of Prisoners. That all such Gifts and Legacies, if paid at the Prison be received in the presence of the Steward and two of the Assistants, or Overseers and that the Gifts and Legacies be immediately entred in their Books, which shall be perused by the Overseers as oft as they think fit.

V. That when any Charity is sent for the Release of any Prisoner, the Keeper

or his Deputy, shall consult with the Overseers, Steward, and Assistants, who are the fittest Objects of that Charity, and whom they agree upon shall be proposed for it.

VI. That the Keeper have a Book, wherein shall be entred the Day and Year that any Prisoner did commence a Prisoner, and the Keeper shall upon discharge of any Prisoner, give him a Bill under his Hand of the time he has been there; what Rent and Fees are due, and when discharg'd; and give an acquittance for the same: And such Book of Accompts kept by the said Keeper, he shall give leave that the Steward and Assistants, may once every Month peruse the same, if they desire it.

VII. That the Cellar-man, or Tapster, shall keep a Book, wherein shall be set down what he trusteth every Prisoner, and what Money he receives for the same, and that upon every Election Day, the said Book be perused by the Steward and Assistants, that the poor Prisoners may not be imposed upon.

VIII. That the Door of the Prison be opened at Seven a Clock, from *Lady-Day* to *Michaelmas*; and from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-*

Lady-Day, at Eight of the Clock in the Morning; and that constant Attendance be given by the Turn-keys all the Day, that all such as come to Visit and Relieve the Prisoners, may have Liberty to come in and go out, excepting the time of Divine Service on the Lord's Day. That all Strangers depart by Nine of the Clock at Night.

IX. That the Keeper find Candles for the use of the Hatch and Office.

X. That the Keeper pay all Duties of the Parish, and the Scavengers for carrying away the Soil of the Prison, that the Prisoners be not imposed upon to pay that Duty.

XI. That no Prisoner discharged from the Sheriff, if released by Charity, be permitted to run on the Score more than 4 *d.* per Day.

XII. That the Prisoners may have Liberty to send for their Drink Abroad, and not be check'd or hindred by the Keeper, or any Servant under him.

XIII. That every Prisoner at their coming into the Prison, or at the next Election Day

Day at the furthest, shall produce the Copy of his Freedom, or such other Testimony as shall be satisfactory, which if he refuse to do, upon complaint made to the Keeper, he shall be obliged to remove him upon such Complaint, unless he be a Beneficed Clergy-man.

XIV. That no Arrears of Chamber-Rent for such Prisoners that are at large, more than for one Month, shall be satisfied by any Charity given to the Prisoners, nor for that one Month, without the Consent of the Steward, Overseers and Assistants.

XV. That the Cellar be shut by Nine of the Clock at Night, and that the Cellar-man, or Tapster, do not after that time entertain any of the Prisoners in his Chamber, or elsewhere.

GIBSON.

On the same Floor, is a Room somewhat larger than the *White Room*, called the *Over-Ward*, wherein is a large Chimney, being a Lodging Room for Prisoners, furnished with Six Bedsteads; but the Beds and Bedding for the most part worn out. The Ceiling being lofty, with large Windows

dows at each end, makes it accounted the best Ward in the House.

Ascending a few Steps from this Floor is a Passage into the *Master-side*; of which by and by. The first that presents on the second Floor is the *Chappel Ward*, so called from its near Situation thereto, which is also provided with a Chimney and Six Beds; but the Bedding quite out of repair. Adjoyning to this Ward, is the *Chappel* which is very lofty and capacious, furnished with all things suitable, and kept very clean and decent by the present Church Warden, who bestows much Care and Pains in washing and beautifying it with Greens and Flowers, according to the Season. At one end is a convenient Gallery for the Women, into which they come by a little Door on the next Floor. Here Prayers are read twice every Day by one of the Lay Prisoners, if there be no Clergyman Prisoner, who has a Salary of 4 *d.* per Day allowed him out of the Boxes for the Service; and every *Sunday* in the Afternoon a Sermon is preached by a Minister appointed by the City for that purpose. On the same Floor is a little Place called the *Odd-mens Room*, with three Beds in it and a handsome Window into *Ludgate Street*, but no Chimney.

Going up another Pair of Stairs, we come first to the *Charity Ward*, so called, because the Men lodged therein, are mostly such as beg the Charity of Passengers at the Boxes that hang out, as aforesaid. Here the Lodgings are much the same as before, and without any Chimney, wherefore they make use of that in the *White Room* to dress their Provisions, and have half a Bushel of Coals allowed them once a Week in the Winter, out of the House stock for that end. This Room is the Apartment of *Monsieur Shawney*, an imaginary Bugbear, who exercises a great Authority over Delinquents for non-payment of Flooridge (which is a due of 18*d.* claimed by custom of every new Prisoner, to be expended among his fellow Ward-mates at his first coming in, and if lodged in the *Masters-side* half a Crown) and for other petty Offences, by securing their Coats, Hats, &c. till paid: All which he officiates by a Deputy, who to be sure is unknown to the Offender, whereof, if he complains to *Monsieur Shawney*, he can hope for no more redress, than if he made application to a *Bartholomew Baby*. Next this Ward is the Entrance into the *Womens Gallery* aforesaid, and next to that a little dark place formerly the *Chamberlains Store-Room*, but now not used for that purpose;

for as that unhappy Wag that had hid the Key of the House of Office, told his *Mistress* when she had lock'd up the Cupboard, there was no need of it, so there being now no Sheets, nor scarce any Bedding belonging to the House, the *Chamberlain* has no occasion for a *Store-Room*. Here are two Men lodged upon a few Rags, for which (no doubt) the Deputy Keeper will exact 14 *d. per Week* of each of them, if ever they should live to obtain their Liberty, as well as he does at present of them, whose Lodging has been little better.

Ascending a few Steps higher, is another passage into the *Masters-side*, which we also leave, and come to the uppermost Floor, where the first is the *Womens Ward* which hath two Apartments; in one of which is a Chimney: They have also half a Bushel of Coals *per Week* allowed them and one Candle every Night; the Furniture is very mean, several of them lodging on the Floor, on such mean Bedding of their own as they have procured from abroad: Within the Ward is a Necessary House peculiar to themselves. Next to this is the *Upper Ward*, whose Ceiling being low would render it less commodious than other Wards, did not its Situation allow it more Air than the rest, and afford

ford a pleasant Prospect into the County of *Surry*. Their Beds and Bedding are much of the same sort with the rest, wherefore I shall in short satisfy the Reader, that there is scarce a Bed in the House (except some few which the Deputy-Keeper has withheld from Poor Prisoners for non-payment of Rent) which is worthy half the Rate mentioned in the Order of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, considering a Man may have tolerable good Lodging for 2 *d.* per Night at divers Inns in most of the considerable Roads in *England*, besides, there have been no Sheets belonging to the House for several Years. In this Ward are two Chimneys.

Next this Ward is a Pair of Stairs going up to the Leads, being a large Platform almost square over the two last mentioned Wards, covered with Oaken Planks, where the Prisoners often (in the Day time) recreate themselves at Nine-pins, and other Diversions, to mitigate the uneasiness of their Confinement, from whence also they have a prospect above 20 Miles to the South, and almost as far to the West, and can look at *Hampstead* and *Highgate*, tho' they cannot come at either. Out of these Stairs is a Passage into the Leads over the Gate also, but seldom open, nor is the Door

to the other Leads open but in the Day time only.

The *Masters-side*, which is over the Gate, has its Entrance by ascending a few Steps from the first Floor of the Common-side, (as before mention'd) which leads into a Passage somewhat dark, where are four Rooms, with a Bed and a Chimney in each Room; of which the Prisoners that are lodged therein keep the Keys, and have the conveniency of privacy therein for themselves and Chamber-fellows only. At the further end of this Passage, is a large Room call'd the *Green Room*, wherein formerly the Prisoners, tho' lodg'd in the Wards, had the liberty of working at their several Trades, it being a capacious place with good Lights, but now divided into two Apartments, and converted to the Deputy-Keeper's private use, tho' he is generally a non Resident there; which by the way, must be of fatal Consequence to the Prisoners, if any casualty of Fire or such like Accident should happen among them, the Doors being lock'd upon them, and neither Keeper or Turn-key within call to relieve them upon such a Necessity. Ascending from hence by a lesser Pair of Stairs, you come to the second Floor, where are Six Rooms, furnished as the Floor below. These are all the Rooms belonging

longing to the *Masters-side*; from whence, by a few Steps, you come to the other Passage from the *Common-side*; where, going up a few Steps higher, you find another Floor, where are two Rooms opposite to each other; the one call'd *Clap A—se Hall*, the other *Puppy's Parlour*: These are reckon'd into the *Common-side*, tho' over the *Masters*; on this Floor also is the *Clock Room*, and above all, another *Necessary House*.

Of the Officers, &c. belonging to the Prison.

HAVING described the House, the next thing is to shew by whom it is inhabited. The proper Inhabitants then of this large Structure, are such unhappy Freemen of *London*, as by Casualties or Mismanagement of their Affairs, having fallen into the Hands of their severe Creditors, do take sanctuary there, by virtue of a Writ call'd *Daci facias*, in hopes to find there some alleviation of their Misfortune; this Prison having the report of the best in *England*, and indeed not undeserv-

edly,

edly, all things consider'd, and were there not so many Abuses crept in it, contrary (as may be presumed) to the intent of those that first provided it for that use, it would undoubtedly merit that Character in a high degree.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of *London*, being Protector of the Liberties and Priviledges of the Freemen thereof, and the benefit of removing to this Prison, peculiar to them and none else (except benefic'd Clergymen) it is at his disposal to appoint a Keeper thereof. Accordingly in the Mayoralty of Sir *Thomas Pilkington*, the Place being vacant, he bestowed it upon his Son, who occupies it to this Day.

But the Execution of the Office being beneath a Person of his Quality, he substitutes under him a Deputy Keeper, who pays him a certain yearly Rent, and gives Security for his Place; who, to reimburse himself, has the benefit of the Lodgings, and other Fees appropriated to him; which he has not been wanting to improve to his best advantage, having enjoy'd the Office first of Turn-key, and since of Deputy-Keeper about 20 Years. Besides which he has a pretty Income from his Pidgeons which are Prisoners, who rather than be confin'd to the prejudice of their Credit

Contract with him to pay 18 *d.* or 2 *s.* per Week, as they can agree, and about a Guinea in Hand, for their Liberty, giving good Security for their forth-coming, if the Adversary shall sue them to Execution. From these Advantages, together with the Benefit of the Cellar, it may be modestly computed, that he may honestly make his Place worth five or 600 *l.* per *Ann.*, tho' some are of Opinion he makes a great deal more of it.

Under the Deputy-Keeper is a Turnkey, who was formerly wont to receive a Salary of about 50 *l.* per *Ann.* but now the Case is otherwise, as has been before related. He appoints another under him to attend all Day at the Hatch, who is commonly one of the Prisoners, to whom he allows about 6 *d.* per Day. These are all the Officers without Doors; besides which, the Deputy-Keeper retains several under him as Messengers to fetch in his Pidgeons, if they do not keep touch with their Weekly Payments, and for other occasions best known to himself.

Of the Officers within Doors.

OUR Wise Ancestors the Magistrates of this Honourable City, when the Quality of a Freeman thereof, was of some account

account, having regard to the benefit of their Posterity, and foreseeing that though a Man may perhaps climb to the top of Fortunes Wheel, yet himself, or some of his Children, may by some unforeseen Accident, (which all humane Precaution is not able to prevent) be tumbled down so low, that he may have occasion to make *Ludgate* his Refuge; and considering (no doubt) that all Mankind are subject to failings, and that Prison-Keepers, or their Deputies especially, are for the most part a sort of voracious Animals, apt to prey upon their own Kind, when in their power; took all possible Care to prevent any Impositions that such Keepers or Turnkeys might introduce to the prejudice of those Freeman, as should have the misfortune to fall into their Hands, by committing the civil Government of the House within-door to the direction of the Prisoners themselves, impowering them to elect certain Officers for that end, who might defend them from any Inroads, the Keepers or any under them should make upon their Priviledges; which Power you find renewed by the Order made in the Mayoralty of Sir *William Ashurst*, and presented to the Readers View, in the Description of the *White Room*, before-mentioned. By virtue of this Order, (the Reader may perceive

perceive) it is in the power of the Prisoners to chuse their own Officers, whereby they may, if they are not infatuated, prevent all the Impositions that any Keeper, tho' never so basely inclin'd, can attempt upon them. The Officers allowed to be freely chosen by the Prisoners are these following, *viz.*

Â Steward, or Master of the Boxes.

Seven Assittants, or Constables;

And an Out-Steward.

Of which in their Order.

The Steward, or Master of the Boxes,

Ought to be a Man of Integrity, in whom the Prisoners may confide: His Office being to receive and dispose of all the charitable Benevolencies of well-disposed People, that bestow them for the Benefit of the Poor Prisoners, as well Legacies as other Gifts; and with the Consent of the Majority of the Assittants, to defend them in their Rights and Priviledges, and from any Insults of the Keeper, or any under him, by an appeal to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen on their behalf. But if on the contrary, he be a Man of indifferent Principles, and liable to be drawn over to the Interest of the *Hatch*, (by which

Term the Reader is desired to observe is

meant the Keeper's Interest, it being a Prison Phrase) his Office which was intended purely for the Benefit of the Poor Prisoners, may (like the best Wines corrupted affording the sharpest Vinegar) turn their greatest disadvantage; of which the present *Steward* is a manifest Instance beyond Contradiction. But to proceed, his Office being as aforesaid, to receive and disburse, he is constantly to attend every Day at the Hours of 12, 5 and 9, to take in the Boxes hung out to receive People's Charity; which are five, two of them as mention'd before; the other three are hung one at the Prison Door without, another at the Entrance of the Northern Postern from *St. Pauls*, and the third in the Passage from that Postern into the Gate-way, which last three are taken in at 9 at Nights only. At the Hours aforesaid, he takes account of the Money in the Boxes, and after having given a certain part of it to each Man that begs, he places the rest to account. With which, and what other Money he receives, he is to relieve the Necessities of the Poor Prisoners, by allowing them a certain Portion daily, which they come to receive of him at 12 at Noon: He likewise provides Mops, Brooms, Pails, &c. which are distributed as they have occasion, to the several Wards and Chambers

for their necessary Uses; for which and other Services belonging to his Office, (of which we shall have occasion to speak in the sequel of the Discourse) he pays himself every Day 12 *d.* which is allow'd him in his Accounts. The next are the

Assistants or Constables,

Of which there are 7 chosen; that is, one to serve every Day in the Week in his turn. His business is always to attend upon the Steward for that Day he serves, to take account of what the Steward receives and disburses; for which end he keeps a Book as well as he, and ought to be present at all times when any Money comes into the Prison, to be a Check upon both Steward and Keeper, that so the Prisoners may not be defrauded, as appears by the Orders afore-mention'd. He is obliged also to see the Orders of the House duly executed, for suppressing all uproars, and punishing Misdemeaners, by committing the Offenders to the Stocks, and such like; and if any Person be refractory, and will not submit patiently, he may command the Charity Men to his Assistance; for which, and some other Services, he is allowed 12 *d.* for that Day he serves, and 3 *d.* of any Prisoner that comes in on that Day, as a Per-

quisite besides his Salary. The next Office is that of

Out-Steward.

His Business is to collect all the Rents and other Gifts that are paid Abroad, and take Care of divers other Matters which are not in the power of the other Steward (by reason of his Confinement) to perform; for which cause this Office was wont to be executed formerly by some Prisoner, who had the Liberty of the Hatch; but now by the Turn-key, who is also Chamberlain, he having occupied it for a long time, there being now no notice taken of such an Officer on the Election Day, tho' express'd in the Order of Lord Mayor, &c. before-mentioned. The Profit he makes of it is best known to himself.

Church-warden.

Besides these three Offices, according to the direction of the said Order, the Church-warden is also chosen by a majority of Voices on the Election Day; His Business is to look after the Chappel, and keep it clean; to give notice to the Scavenger to ring the Bell at the Hours of Prayer, for which he is allowed about *4 d. per Day,* and

and 3 *d.* of every new Prisoner at his coming in ; besides which, he has a small weekly allowance from the Steward, for winding up and keeping the Clock in Order, which (tho' but small) is an Imposition on the Prisoners, for doubtless the Government of the City never intended, that Charge should be defrayed out of the Poor Prisoner's Charity Money, there being a Person appointed generally to look after such Publick Concerns, who receives a Salary of the City for that end, who ought to pay him, and not the Prisoners.

The rest of the Offices are at the discretion of the Steward and Assistants, which are these following :

The Reader.

The Running Assistant.

The Kettle-Pot Man ; And

The Box-Men.

The Reader

Is commonly made choice of according to his Qualifications ; he must be one that Reads with a good grace, and should have some Knowledge in singing, for he officiates the Clark's place as well as his own : He reads Prayers twice every Day, except *Saturdays* and *Sundays* in the Afternoon, at which latter time the Minister that preaches

preaches, performs that Duty himself. His Salary is mentioned before; to which he has the addition of 2 *d.* from every new Prisoner.

The Running Assistant

Is always to be within Call of the Hatch, that if any Stranger come to inquire for any Prisoner, he may be ready to call them, or direct to their Lodgings, that so the Prisoners may not be prevented of seeing and speaking with such as come to visit them; it being somewhat difficult for Strangers to find a Person out in so large a Place, where they are unacquainted: He also gives notice (by a loud Outcry) to the Steward and Assistant of the Hours appointed to take in the Boxes. His Salary is 4 *d.* per Day, and 2 *d.* of every new Prisoner.

The Kettle-Pot Man

Makes Broth every Sunday of Chumps of Neck Beef, which are a certain Gift belonging to the Prison, sent by the Beadle of *Butchers-Hall*, for bringing of which the *Kettle-Pot Man* pays the Messenger Four Pence, and has about 20 *d.* allowed him by the Steward to defray that Charge, to buy Oatmeal, Herbs and Coals, and has the Priviledge of selling the Meat he

he dresses to the Prisoners. This, with 2 *d.* of every new Prisoner, is all the Profit he makes of his Office.

The Scavenger

Is to take care to sweep the *White Room*, Stair-Cafe, and Passages to the Rooms every Day, and carry away all the Dust from any of the Chambers or Wards, being swept together by the Prisoners ready for him to a convenient place for that purpose, till such time as the Dust-man comes with his Cart to fetch it away. He is also Yeoman of the *Nut-crackers* (according to the *Ludgate* Phrase) *viz.* at the command of the Constable of the Day, he puts Offenders into the Stocks, or Irons, and attends upon them while there, by Night or Day. He rings a Bell to call the Prisoners to Prayers, and at Eight at Night, to give Strangers notice to depart the House. He summons the Steward and Assistants to meet about the dispatch of Publick Affairs, and attends during their sitting, for which he receives 4 *d.* and makes Proclamation when any thing is lost, for which he is paid 2 *d.* by the Person that employs him, with several other petty Performances that belong to him; for all which he has an allowance from the Steward of 6 *d.* per Day,

Day, and a distinct Proportion of all Eatables that are sent in for the Relief of the Prisoners; besides, as often as he washes the *White Room*, or cleanses out the Cistern, (which is at the Stewards discretion) he receives for each 6 *d.* These altogether make his Salary and Perquisites a tolerable Subsistence.

The Box-men

At present are in number Eight, who by two at a time, at the places before-mention'd, in their turns, are obliged to beg certain Hours: According to this Method, suppose *A* and *B* begin on a *Monday* Morning, *A* is obliged to be at the Box under the Gate by Five in the Morning, Winter and Summer; *B* not while Seven at *Black-Fryars* Window, People not passing so early that way as through the Gate. At these Places they stand till Twelve at Noon, where, if they are negligent to give constant Attendance, they are reprimanded by the Constable of the Day, and sometimes turn'd off the Box, if they do not answer the end of their Employment; which is to bellow aloud in the most moving Terms they can invent, that being the best Qualification to recommend a Man to that Station; for if he be never
so

much in want, unless he has a good pair of Lungs, a great Assurance, and an exact Method of Canting, he shall not be admitted to this, one of the most beneficial Posts in the House. At 12 a Clock, after the Steward has counted the Money he gives a fourth part to *A*, and as many Farthings as are over and above the even Pence : To *B* he gives three fourths of what is in the Box, and the odd Farthings. The Reason of this disproportion is from the different number of Passengers, the one being a great Road, the other a Bye Passage ; so that *B*'s three fourths is very rarely equivalent to *A*'s one fourth. As soon as ever the Boxes are emptied, *C* and *D* stand ready to receive and hang them out again, where they give their Attendance till 5 in the Evening, at which time they receive as before, and are relieved by *E F* ; at 9 at Night their Duty ends, and then the three Out-Boxes are examined ; and if any odd Farthings therein, they fall to the Scavengers Lot, for his care to hang them out and take them in ; but if there happen to be a piece of Gold, the Scavenger has Sixpence, which is very seldom. On *Tuesday* Morning *G H*. succeed, and are relieved at 12 at Noon by the two that began ; but with this difference, that *B* takes *A*'s place, and so interchangeably, by which course

A B lose the Benefit of one Day in Four, as do the rest in their turns. This indeed is very irksome to some Persons, and more than they are able to undergo; for let the Weather be what it will, they must stand seven Hours in it, spending their Spirits for the Morning Box; but abating that, their Business is as profitable as any in the House, for (modestly speaking) they do not make less than 12 *d.* per Day of it, one Day with another, especially in the Winter Season, when the Town is full of People, the Box-man's fourth part has been divers times worth four or five Shillings; besides, they have many Priviledges more than other Prisoners.

Secretary.

Besides these, there is of late a new contriv'd Office call'd a *Secretary*, only to save the Steward the trouble of writing his own Business, for which he is allowed 2 *d.* per Day. He writes all the Publick Business of the House, and Petitions once a Year to the Inquests of the City; for which Petitions he is paid 6 *d.* each by the Steward, and 6 *d.* every Election Day for writing a List of the Names of such as are in Nomination for Officers: And that the Prisoners may dispence with this extraordinary

ordinary Charge without Grumbling, he is obliged to write Letters for such of them as cannot write themselves.

I had almost forgotten to inform the Reader, that besides all the 'fore-mention'd, there are yet two other Officers who are to walk upon the Leads in the Day time by turns, to prevent any Prisoner that may attempt to make an escape from thence; and these are paid each *3 d. per Day* out of the Poor Prisoners Income, tho' the Office be purely to serve the Deputy Keeper, and he has it always at his disposal to whom he pleases (who are commonly two of the Constables) by which contrivance he is always sure of two Votes in seven in that Assembly. For the defraying of this Charge, the Steward pretends an Order in his Book, as well as for some others as unreasonable. And who knows but in a few Years more, after this Rate, the whole Income for Relief and Release of Prisoners, will be appropriated to the Deputy Keeper's whole disposal, if the Poor Freemen Prisoners do not awake out of that deep Lethargy they have along time been in, and cry aloud to the rest of their fellow Citizens, who hold the helm of Government of this Honourable City, to redress these and many other Incroachments upon their Rights and Priviledges.

Government.

WHere divers Persons of different Humours and Dispositions are confin'd together, it is not improbable but some Disorders may happen to the prejudice of some of them. To prevent therefore the ill Consequences that may attend any such Disorders; and inasmuch as Prisoners by reason of Confinement, are not subject to the immediate Inspection of the Civil Magistrate, the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen have thought it necessary to invest the said Prisoners with Power to make such Orders as may be most conducive to the good Regulation of themselves, with Authority to punish the breakers thereof. Which Orders made by the consent of the Majority of Steward and Assistants, were formerly wont to be approved and confirmed by Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, and entred in a Book in the *Guild-Hall*, before they became obligatory to the Prisoners; and Copies thereof committed to the Care of the Steward and Assistants, for the Prisoners to have recourse

course to at all times, that they might be the better able to regulate their Behaviour accordingly. But this custom of confirming the Orders is now become obsolete, and the Steward and Assistants make what Orders they please, and assume to themselves a Power to inflict Corporal Punishments, without any such Confirmation, and often consult the Deputy Keeper about making them, who pretends to have a Right to preside thereat; but whether empowered thereto by any Original Order in the *Guild-Hall*, is a disputable point: For it can never enter into any reasonable Person's Understanding to believe, that the Government of this Honourable City would allow him such a Preheminence, who have been so careful of the Poor Prisoner's suffering any Inconveniencies from their Keeper, as to grant them the Benefit of choosing a Steward and other Officers, as well to defend them therefrom, as to regulate themselves. For if it happen that the Hatch have set up a Creature of their own to be Steward, and procured Votes for such Men to be Assistants, as they can Byass or Influence, it may not be difficult to obtain the making of such Orders as may be more for their own Advantage than the Prisoners, of which take an Instance or two. By virtue of an Order

(un-

undoubtedly procured by such a Practice) the Steward every Election Day pays the Deputy Keeper Five Shillings, for his Attendance for about half an Hour, out of the Money that is given for the relief of Poor Prisoners; which must needs be inconsistent with the design of granting them Liberty to hang out a Box to beg for their own Relief. Another Instance is, his exacting Money Monthly (by virtue of such another kind of Order) for lodging in the *Masters-side*, and pretending to it in the *Common-side* also, or else turning the Prisoners out of their Lodgings, contrary to the usage of all Keepers before: And indeed very unreasonable; there being in the Hands of several Companies and other Persons, large Legacies and Gifts of well-disposed People, not only sufficient to defray that Charge, but to pay divers small Debts for Poor Prisoners, if any Charitable Persons would so far plead their Cause, as to prevent those Gifts from being all sunk for Chamber Rent.

But among the multitude of their Orders some are very good, such as against Prophane Swearing, Drunkenness, or Pilfering from, or abusing their fellow Prisoners by Word or Deed, and divers others, proper for their Civil Government; the Breaches whereof are punish'd with Stocks, Irons,

Irons, or Fines: These Orders were wont to be read in the Audience of all the Prisoners upon the Election Day, but that good Custom (as most others such are) is now discontinued, and the Book wherein they are written, never to be perused but in the Presence of the Steward, who is not often at leisure to admit Persons to the view of it: For which cause, many become Offenders unwillingly; an Instance of which happened on the 11th Day of *May* 1711. being Choice-Day, after this manner. There having been a Struggle between the *Hatch* and the Prisoners for some time, about the Election of a new Steward, and some of them intending not to appear that Day, but stand Neuters, perceiving that the *Hatch*, like a mighty Torrent, would bear them down, in all Oppositions they could make against the Irregularity of their Proceedings. This coming to the Steward's Ear, he, as soon as the Election was over, gave command to the Scavenger to lock the Door, and let no Person in or out, and then order'd the Secretary to read an Order to this effect: " That all Persons that did not appear in
 " the *White Room* on the Election Day,
 " must pay 4*d.* or be set in the Stocks. Upon this the Prisoners Names were call'd over, and such as were not present were call'd

call'd one by one and fin'd 4 *d.* *per* Man, except such as he and his Crew of Assistants thought fit to excuse. A pretty way of tricking Poor Men out of their Money, when more than half of them never knew of any such Order, and perhaps had not 2 *d.* at their command; but that was all one, for they must either pay, promise to pay, or go to the Stocks.

Many of their Orders are so illegal and inconsistent with Reason, that they must have Fronts of Brass, who pretend the Wise Senators of this Honourable City should patronize them, the Punishments being so unmeasurably proportioned to the Offences: For in many trivial Cases, especially speaking reflectingly on the Keeper, Steward, &c. the penalty is to sit in the Stocks or Irons divers Hours, and for some Offences divers Days and Nights. But by what Authority they execute such Penalties within Doors is a question, since the longest time for sitting in the Stocks doth not exceed three Hours by any Statute Law abroad.

There is one Order which is superior to all Laws and Acts of Parliament whatsoever, which is thus, *viz.* Whosoever is committed to the Stocks or Irons, must set his Hand to a Writing of Submission, (as they call it) before he shall be released,
tho'

tho' he hath fulfill'd the Sentence against him, which for some Offences is several Days and Nights: And this they pretend to insist upon, tho' the Lord Mayor or Sheriff, send order to the contrary; and nothing but Death or a remove by *Habeas Corpus* can exempt any one from thence, without writing a Submission, by which they assume to themselves a Power exceeding all the Courts of Justice in the Kingdom: For by this means, if a Man should be accused wrongfully, and yet should be thought guilty by the Steward and four of the Assistants (who are no more infallible than other Men) he must go to the Stocks or Irons, and not be released till he has entred himself a Criminal upon Record, by confessing a guilt under his own Hand, tho' in his own Conscience he knows himself to be clear. An Instance whereof happened in *September* or *October* last, thus: A Person who had been somewhat active against the Interest of the *Hatch*, was summoned before a Table, and there accused (by hear-say only) of advising a Woman (whose Mother, a Prisoner, lay then dead in the House) to complain to the Lord Mayor, of her Mother's Sufferings, intimating that she died for want; which indeed was somewhat suspicious, divers of the Women having given out

Words, that she express'd herself much to that purpose. But the Man positively denied that ever he gave any such advice; and tho' they had no other Proof than the testimony of one Man, who affirm'd, that he heard another Daughter of the said dead Woman say, her Sister had been advised thereto by a little Man, and looking at this Man at a distance (the Hatch being shut between them) said, That was he; and tho' the said Sister offered to make Oath, that the said little Man had never advised her to that effect; yet for a terror to the rest, (there being some muttering in the House about the Old Woman's complaints before she dy'd) he was condemned to sit in the Stocks four Days and four Nights: Which Punishment the Young Man with a great deal of Courage and Patience (true tokens of his Innocence) underwent; and when the Term was fully expired, he demanded of the Steward to be released; but instead of that the Steward produced his Book of Orders, and told him, there was no Redemption for him, unless he would write a Submission; but he refusing to record himself a Criminal, would not write, and so continued a Day and Night longer, and then was advised, by his Friends to do so, and take his Remedy at Law afterwards, if ever he

and

and the Steward live to be discharged from their Confinement, when it is suppos'd the said Steward will hardly be defended by his Book of Orders from the Stroke of Justice, for using the Queen's Subjects so barbarously, notwithstanding he has extorted a kind of Confession from him, whom he pretends to have Authority to punish, for a supposed Crime against an Order, which says, no Prisoner shall speak any thing that reflects upon the Government of the House, under less penalty than sitting four Days and Nights in the Stocks. I had designed to have given a particular Account both of the Nature of their Orders, and their Method of proceeding against Offenders; but inasmuch as I have given hints of both in the foregoing Relations, I shall enlarge no more thereupon, when I have inform'd the Reader, that the present Steward acts generally very insolently and arbitrarily, especially if he thinks himself or the Deputy Keeper reflected upon, by committing Prisoners to the Stocks, contrary to former Custom, at his absolute Will and Pleasure, perhaps at 10 or 11 at Night, without summoning the Assistants to hear the Matter fairly examined; where the Poor Prisoner must sit all Night, or longer, till he writes his Submission, in a wide open Room, where there is a large

Window without Glass, let the Season be never so cold, to the endangering the Health of the Sufferer, unless he be of a very robust Constitution. But tho' the Steward's Zeal be so warm for his own and his Master's Honour, he can tamely hear his Maker's Name prophaned by horrid Oaths and Execrations, and not inflict Punishment on the Offenders, it having not been known, that ever any Person suffered for Swearing or Drunkenness since he has been Steward, which is now above two Years. But the Reason of this partiality may be easily guess'd at, since his own Conscience, (if he has any) must needs fly in his Face, while he punishes those Crimes he is so guilty of himself. There is one thing more observable under this Head, and that is, tho' the Deputy Keeper pretends to have a Share in making Orders, yet when application has been made to him about the Severity of the Execution of them, he can withdraw behind the Curtain, by telling the Offender, that he has nothing to do with the Orders they make themselves, tho' he can prevaricate as much another way when he presides at a Table, advising the Steward and Assistants to burn their Book of Orders, if they suffer themselves to be insulted (as he calls it) by such a Fellow, meaning a Prisoner who had been forward
in

insisting upon the just Rights and Privileges of the Prisoners.

Customs and Usages.

THE next thing I shall mention, is the Customs and Usages of the House, and then draw to a Conclusion: When a Prisoner designs to remove to *Ludgate*, he procures a *Duci facias*, which costs him half Crown, and making application to an Officer to conduct him thither, he usually demands half a Crown more, tho' the Order allows him but 2 *d.* which if he refuses to pay, the Officers shall so shift the Matter between themselves, that it shall cost the Prisoner more than that by their delays Lodging, and other Expences in the Pumping Houses; and whatever the Officer extorts by that means, he will nevertheless not fail to demand his 2 *d.* when he comes to the Prison. Where being come, he is delivered into the Custody of the Deputy Keeper or Turn-key, and must pay 4 *d. viz.* 1 *s.* to the Turn-key, and 2 *d.* to the Officer. Soon after his Entrance, he is visited by the Steward and Assistant for that Day, who with the Turn-key, who is also the Chamberlain, enquire where he will lodge; if on the Masters side, he must pay down to the Steward 15 *s.* 6 *d.* the par-

particulars of which (except 7 s. for Months Chamber Rent before-hand) I have not gained Information enough to account for: If he lodges in the Common or Ward side, the Steward demands 4 s. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The particulars of which are as follow:

	l.	s.	d.
To the House Stock	0	1	0
To Flooridge to be spent in the Ward, and for Candle	0	1	6
To Sheets, tho' he never has any	0	0	8
To the Constable, Reader, &c.	0	0	10
Total	0	4	0 $\frac{1}{2}$

Which Dues of the House (as they are called) the Prisoner must pay, or give good Satisfaction that he will, before he shall be admitted to a Lodging; and if he be negligent afterwards to make payment in a few Days, the Steward will presume to threaten him with the Stocks. When the Steward has gotten the 3 s. and 6 d. for the House, &c. he commonly turns him over to the Management of the Ward, for the remaining 18 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. which is their Claim, and they often times upon neglect employ *Monsieur Shawney*, who seldom fails of giving a good account thereof, or else they will exclude the Prisoner (until he pays) from the Benefit of sharing such Gifts as are

are sent for the relief of the Poor Prisoners, which is 9 Stone of Beef from the Lord Mayor every *Saturday*, 6 or 7 dozen of Bread once in 9 Weeks from the Leather-sellers Company, the Lord Mayor's Basket, and some other Benevolencies which are less certain; of all which the Master-side never partakes, except such of them as are the Stewards Favourites. And here it may not be improper to acquaint the Reader with the Method of dividing such Gifts. When any Provision is sent in, it is commonly carried into the *White Room*, and there lock'd up till the Steward is pleased to be at leisure to share it, who calls the Assistant of the Day and the Scavenger, and sometimes others, whom he pleases; then they go to dividing a proportion to every Ward, with the Door lock'd upon them, which gives a suspicion many times to the Prisoners of some unfair dealing, that is not always groundless. When every Ward have received their Portion, which it is the Duty of every youngest Prisoner therein, to attend the Call of the Scavenger for that purpose; the said youngest Prisoner must divide it in as equal Portions as he can, suitable to the number of Men or Women in the Ward, and then every one, according to Seniority, takes his share; wherefore if he makes any part less than
the

the rest, he must expect it will fall to his own Lot. The Youngest Prisoner is obliged also every Morning to sweep the Ward and provide a Pail of clean Water, for common use, and to assist once a Week him that came next before him to wash the Ward, one of them fetching Water, and the other washing, as they shall agree between themselves. If he be infirm and not able to perform this Duty, he must hire it done, which will cost him 3 *d.* per Week washing, and 3 *d.* sweeping, which he is obliged to, till another comes under him. In every Ward the Eldest Prisoner is the Alderman of the Ward, who commonly when these Offices are neglected, gives his precept to *Monsieur Shawney* to execute his Authority upon the Offender; which is done privately by one or more in the Ward, perhaps when the Offender is asleep, taking away some of his Effects, and keeping their own Counsel so strictly, that it is impossible to discover who did it; and when Satisfaction is made, the Effects are as privately convey'd into their former places.

But to return to the Account of Particulars aforesaid, it is observable, that not many Years ago, the Steward never pretended to take these Dues, but the Constable of the Day (who then adopts the new Priso-

Prisoner to be his Son or Daughter) civilly told him or her, that he must have One Shilling for the Houle, and 4 *d.* for himself, and allowed them any reasonable time to pay, and left the rest to the Prisoner's discretion. But as the case now stands, it would be an unaccountable piece of Assurance for the Chamberlain to require 8 *d.* for Sheets; therefore the Hatch and the Steward have so jumbled the Matter together, as to demand the Dues in a lump, by which means the Poor Prisoner pays insensibly for Sheets which he never has, the Steward not giving account of the Particulars of his Demand.

When the new Prisoner has paid all his Dues, he partakes of all Gifts as aforesaid, which, as things are now ordered, falls very short of a Subsistence; therefore if he has no Friend abroad to relieve him, he is forced to make Application to the Steward, who perhaps, after much Sollicitation, will vouchsafe to allow him 2 *d.* per Day out of the House Stock, or more if there be hopes of bringing him in to Vote for the Interest of the Hatch; or if he be qualify'd, will promote him to be a Boxman: Whereas formerly no Person was admitted to any of those Benefits, till he had been a Prisoner 16 Weeks, for which they pretend an Order: But the present Steward (Good

Man) can dispence with that Order, to serve a turn, pretending he does it in compassion to the Person, when it is notoriously evident to the contrary, for whoever becomes a Pensioner, must of Necessity be in that Interest; and this divers Poor Men have acknowledged, by confessing they are forced to act against their own Sense and Understanding, for that Reason: Such is the Ascendant the Steward and his Master the Hatch have gotten over the Poor Prisoners, that they are forced to see themselves abused, and cannot help it. In respect of which the following Lines, supposed to be written by the late Earl of Rochester, may be said to be veresfy'd.

*— Honesty's against all common Sense,
Men must be Knaves, 'tis in their own defence
Nor shall weak Truth thy Reputation save,
The Knaves will all conspire to call the Knave.
Wrong'd shalt thou live, still injur'd and oppress'd
Who durst be a less Villain than the rest.*

Now if any one shall Query, why do the Prisoners continue the Steward so long in his Office (having held it almost two Years and an half) since the Lord Mayor's Order empowers them to chuse a new one once a Month. I answer, he being a Person wholly in the Interest of the Hatch which

which the Reader may the more easily believe, if the common report among the Prisoners be true, that he goes often abroad to the Tavern with the Deputy Keeper, abiding there till 1, 2, or 3 a Clock in the Morning, where his Income of 7 or 8 Shillings *per Week* by his Office, will not (as may be presumed) defray his Expences at such Sittings, especially considering he must always treat; the Hatch supports him in his place, by over-aweing or otherwise disposing the Prisoners to Vote for him. For tho' they are allowed a formal Choice, yet whosoever the Hatch appoints must be Steward, being always provided with a Majority, who are either Officers of the Steward's creating, or Pensioners, who for fear of losing their Income, are obliged to Vote for him; besides these, there are among them some dull Ashes fit for Burden, who (*Esau* like) for a drunken Entertainment, will sell their Birth-rights. There is also a certain Custom introduc'd of late Years, which contributes much to this purpose, as well as to the Improvement of the Cellar-Keeper's Interest, which is held after this manner: The Night before every Choice, the Prisoners assemble together in the *White Room*, to spend 2 *d.* *per Man*, (so many of them as will, there being no Obligation, tho' such as are ab-

sent are esteemed as Malecontents) in order, as is pretended, to consider who are proper Persons to be in Nomination for Offices the next Day; tho' that be the least that is discourf'd of at that time, being very irregular in the whole Procefs of their Discourse, except when the Steward commands Silence, while feveral Healths are drank with a triple Huzza, of which the Deputy Keeper's and Steward's fail not to make up the Number. After about an Hours confus'd Noife, (having begun about Nine) the Reader ftands up and tells the Company, the Steward has expended his Four Shillings according to custom, and their 2 *d. per* Man has been brought in, and they are welcome Gentlemen: But the Cellar-man offers to expend his Shilling, and fuch of the Company as are minded to club their Penny apiece more, are welcome to tarry, the reft are defired to depart the Room. When this fecond part of the Caroufe is over, they withdraw from thence; fome into the Steward's Chamber, fome into the Cellar, or the Cellar mans Room, where they guzle it for moft part of the Night, by which Method their Brains being thoroughly foak'd, they are fcarce capable of difcerning their own Intereft, and fo the eafier wheedled to Vote for that of the Hatch. By fuch Practices

Practices as these, the Prisoners are either over awed or wheedled to continue the said Steward, and the Hatch take care that no Man be in Nomination against him, but such a one as is not qualify'd, or not willing to serve the Office. But the greatest Argument against his removal is, that the House owes him a great deal of Money, which he has been out of Pocket, to supply the defects of the Income of the Prison, and till some Person be found to reimburse him, he pretends to hold it: But the unreasonableness of this pretence is obvious, if the Reader will but observe the following Account, which for its reality the Steward's Book is a sufficient Proof.

House Debtor.

	l.	s.	d.
To Common Charge	0	07	10
<i>Tuesday</i> To Clock and Gudgeon	0	01	00
<i>May 2.</i> To Gudg. and Woods	0	03	06
<i>1710.</i> To the List	0	00	06
To Calling the House	0	00	04
To washing <i>White Room</i>	0	00	06
To Expended at a Table	1	11	07
To Strowings <i>Wt. Room</i>	0	00	02
To Relief of <i>J. S.</i>	0	00	04
To Relief of <i>V.</i>	0	00	02
To Relief of <i>R.</i>	0	00	02
To Relief of <i>D.</i>	0	00	02
To Brooms	0	01	02
To Bleeding <i>S.</i>	0	00	06
	<hr/>		
	2	07	11
	<hr/>		

Per Cont. &c.

May the 2d

1710.

By the Boxes at

{

12

5

9

}

	l.	s.	d.
	0	02	04
	0	01	04
	0	01	06
	<hr/>		
	0	05	02
	<hr/>		

In

In this Account the House is Debtor to the Steward 2 *l.* 2 *s.* 9 *d.* but tho' he has had the good Fortune to have a Crew of Assistants to allow it, who took part of that extravagant Expence in the Seventh Article; Yet when the Overseers (which are two Persons chosen out of every Ward, to inspect the Accounts) came to object against that and several other extravagant Ways of disposing of the Monies given to the Relief of Poor Prisoners, he refused to let them proceed in the Examination, and still persists in it to this Day: So that unless the Common Council Men next adjoining to the Prison, (according to former custom, pursuant to Order of Lord Mayor, &c.) will compel him to it, the Poor Prisoners are like to be defrauded to the end of the Chapter, and he to be continued Steward, so long as he is a Prisoner, or till he falls into the displeasure of the Deputy Keeper; which he did in some Measure on the 31st of *December* last, when the Deputy Keeper being in the Rules (where were present the Steward, two of the Constables, the Reader, and divers other Prisoners) swore by God, (repeating his Oath several times) that he would turn out the present Steward (mentioning his Name) from being any longer Steward, if he did not endeavour to turn

out

out the Church-warden (who had incurr'd his displeasure) the next Day, being the Day of Election, an evident Demonstration how far the Deputy Keeper influences the Election of Steward and other Officers. But were the Steward's Accounts fair, he has it in his Power to repay himself, having the Legacy Book in his Possession, and the Monies arising thereby coming to his Hands; and not only so, but he has received Monies to be distributed among the Prisoners, every one a part, which he has neglected to do, according to the Will of the Donors, and placed to the Publick Account to reimburse himself; and yet it appeared about *Christmas* 1710. the House was indebted to him above Thirty Pounds. And here it may not be improper to give the Reader an account of his Behaviour upon such an Occasion, which was after this manner: In the beginning of the Year 1710. a certain Gentleman came to dispose of 5 Guineas among the Prisoners; but having not Silver wherewith to make the Distribution, he left it to the Steward, who promised to fulfil his desire; but when the Gentleman was gone, instead of that he placed it to Account, and gave the Prisoners not a Penny. This caused a great murmuring among them, and some of them were punished with the Stocks; there-

Therefore at length the Sheriffs came, but to little purpose, such only of the Prisoners being admitted into their Presence, as the Deputy Keeper and Steward pleased; so that the Matter was blown over, and the Poor Prisoners forced to sit down by the loss. About a Year after, the same Gentleman came again with the same Gift, and was about to deposite it in the Steward's Hands, as before, but several of them remembering how they had been served the Year foregoing, took the Courage to desire the Gentleman to see it distributed himself: But it being in Gold as before, and he not willing to give himself the trouble, told them he would call again in a few Days, and if the Steward did not do them Justice, he would, and so giving the Money departed. The Steward hereupon was extreamly netled to see himself detected after this manner, and commanded that one particular Person who had been the forwardest in complaining of him to the Gentleman, should be immediately set in the Stocks; but the whole Body of Prisoners opposed him; some telling him, that he more deserved it himself; upon which and some other severe Reflections that past upon him, he sneak'd away into the Office, and in some few Hours after, made an equal Di-

I

vidend

vidend of the Money, which came to about 17 *d.* *per* Head.

Under this Head, it may not be improper to give the Reader an account of the Weddings and Burials. Their Weddings are twofold, Real and Nominal: The Real Weddings are when one Prisoner married to another, which sometimes happens; by which means the Woman procures her own Liberty, and thereby becomes assistant to the Man in bringing him Work or Necessaries, and perhaps instrumental in procuring his Liberty also. The Nominal is when any Prisoner's Wife stays with her Husband all Night, which sometimes happens, if they do not carefully observe when notice is given of shutting the Door at Nine at Night; which the Turn-key is very exact in, hardly exceeding a Minute after the Clock has struck, (tho' he be not so over hasty in coming in a Morning, making the Poor Prisoners and their Friends wait his leisure divers times in the Winter Season till almost Nine a Clock, contrary to the Order, which says, the Prison Door shall be opened at Eight) so that whosoever misses the opportunity of going out immediately upon notice, must abide there all Night. When either of these Weddings happen, it is soon made known to the Prisoners, who

who procuring Instruments, such as Frying Pans, Tongs, Gridirons, Keys, &c. compose a Consort of rugged Musick, with which they make an horrid Noise: And having the Eldest Box-man (with a Candle in each Hand) for their Leader, they advance towards the Bride-Chamber, where after seranading the Bridegroom and his Bride, they demand half a Crown of the Bridegroom, which he is obliged to submit to, or he will receive a severe treatment from *Monsieur Shawney*: From thence they go to the Steward and demand 4 *d.* and so on to every Ward and Chamber in the House, levying 2 *d.* per Head upon every new Prisoner, that hath not been at such a Wedding before. Thus having finished their Collection, they go in a sort of Triumph (exercising their Instruments) into the *White Room*, or Cellar, where they spend the Money in Drink and Tobacco, making merry most part of the Night, to which merry-making they that will may come; and so much for their Weddings.

Their Burials are after this manner: As soon as any Prisoner dies, the Constable of the Day is called, let it be at any Hour of the Night, who immediately secures the dead Person's Cloaths, or other Effects, as Bed, Bedding, or whatever else

he or she hath with them in the Prison, for the use of the Deputy Keeper. Then, if the Prisoner hath no Friend that will take care to bury him, the Steward provides a Coffin, &c. and having procured an Order from the Lord Mayor, the Corps is convey'd in a Coach to *Bethlehem* burying Ground in *Moorfields*, all which Charge is defray'd out of the Prison Stock. But if the deceased's Friends will take care of his Burial, the Body is at their disposal, and then it is sometimes deposited in the Chappel, while a Psalm is there sung by the Prisoners, before it is carried out of the House. And here I cannot but remark the Deputy Keeper's Imposition, in obliging the Constables to secure the Prisoner's Effects for his own use, and yet put the Poor Prisoners to the charge of the Burial; whereas in other Prison's the Keepers are obliged to bury the dead, if no Friend will do it, at least it is but reasonable for him to let the Prisoners have the Effects, since he puts them to the charge of the Burial; but he pretends to an Order (of his own or his Predecessors procuring no doubt) that empowers him to withhold them for Chamber Rent, which rather than he will lose, he has employ'd his Turn-key to make Application to a certain Company for Money, pretending

ing it to be for the Release of a Poor Prisoner, who at the same time lay dead in the House, as may be proved without much difficulty.

And here it may not be amiss to caution all such, as may hereafter fall into the adversity of Confinement in this place, if they bring their own Beds, that they take care to provide one no bigger than will serve one Person only, and not lay it upon one of the Keeper's Bedsteads; for if it be large enough for two, the Chamberlain will place another to lodge there, for which the Deputy Keeper will exact *14 d. per Week* of him that lodges there, tho' another Man be the Owner thereof; and tho' not big enough for two, yet, if upon the Keeper's Bedstead, he will insist upon whole Pay many times, especially if the Chamber Rent be paid by Charity, notwithstanding the Lord Mayor's Order says he shall pay but *3 d. per Week* if he brings his own Bed, at least he will demand *6 d. or 8 d. per Week*, or refuse to deliver the Prisoner's Effects while paid: Which Rates many Poor Men when going out, and glad of Liberty, will rather comply with than contend, being wheedled into such a compliance by being told, that the Money is not out of their own Pockets, being given them by Charitable Persons,
in

in hopes of getting Five or Ten Shillings for themselves, which seldom happens, of which many a Poor Wretch has need enough, being like a Bird after a long Confinement, at a loss how to subsist for a while, when turn'd into the wide World to shift for himself; not considering that at the Rates aforelaid, and their conniving at such Management, the Deputy Keeper gets by Petitioning Companies and other well disposed Persons, as much for one Man's Release, as would (if Justice had its Course) Release two or three, who must remain there the longer for such Contrivances: For tho' a Prisoner be discharged from the Sheriff, yet does he assume to himself the Power of keeping Men in Confinement for Chamber Rent, without any due Process at Law; but *Quo Warranto*, I am not Lawyer enough to determine: Yet having generally to do with such Poor Men as are not able to stand the Tryal, he has the better Assurance to persist in it. However, he might be prevented from taking more than his due, if such as have the disposing of such Monies as are given for the Release of Prisoners, would give themselves the trouble of being a little more Inquisitive into what the Prisoner really owes for Chamber Rent, &c. and not depend altogether upon the

Deputy

Deputy Keeper's Integrity, for by this means they would be doubly charitable; in releasing (as aforesaid) two or three; with what is paid for one. Nor shall a Man that provides his own Bed, have the Liberty of setting it where he desires, tho' there be never so much Room in the place; an Instance of which happened last Summer, as followeth: A certain Prisoner lodging in the Master's side, had for more than a Year kept touch with the Deputy Keeper, paying him Seven Shillings *per* Month, (according to his pretended Order) but not being able to hold it, procured a little Bed and Beadstead of his own, and placed it in the Room where he had so long been, which the Deputy Keeper would not allow, but ordered it to be removed into one of the Wards, where he continued some time, being placed there with the formality of the Constables introducing him, according to custom: But the Deputy Keeper having a further Pique against him, came into the Ward one Night about Nine a Clock, with his Sword by his side (which is against the Rules of the Prison) peremptorily commanding him to carry his Bed into the Charity Ward, (the greatest Indignity he could offer him) which the Prisoner refusing, insisting upon his being duly placed there, and blaming
 paid

the Keeper's Severity to him, who had paid him so much Money, express'd himself a little warmly, whereupon the Deputy Keeper had the Assurance to strike him, tho' a Freeman of this Honourable City, (which, whether he be such himself, is a question among the Prisoners) and ordered the Box-men (who before-hand were summoned to attend him) immediately to carry his Bed into their Ward, which the Poor mercenary Animals durst do no less than obey, tho' they had seen their fellow Prisoner so barbarously abused in their Presence. I should both tire the Readers Patience and my own, should I enlarge in giving such Instances as might be produced, of the Innovations that have of late been introduc'd, and foul abuses that are at present practis'd in this Prison. But I shall only add, that it is become by reason thereof, like *Augeas* Stable, which none but the *Herculean* Labour, or Power of Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen and Common Council, are able to cleanse and restore to its former good *Usages* and *Customs*.

The Conclusion.

I Shall now conclude with an address to the Reader, to put a candid Construction upon what has been presented to his view, assuring him that what the Author has here exposed, is notoriously Fact, as can be attested by divers who are now at Liberty, and more still in Confinement, should they be assured of Protection from the Insults of the present Steward and his Abettors: And that his making it Publick is purely in good Will to his fellow Citizens, thinking it necessary, that every Freeman of this City should be acquainted with the present State of the Prison of *Ludgate*, that so he may be the better prepared to act his part, and defend himself from the abuses that any one may offer him, if ever he should be so unhappy to experience a state of Confinement in that, (abating its large extent, &c.) now the worst of Prisons: For (as Matters are now ordered) unless a Man has Relations or Friends abroad to help him, he may starve therein, tho' there be such large Legacies

K

and

and Incomes by the Boxes and otherways, amounting (as the present Steward has been heard to declare over his Cups) to 500 *l. per Annum*, which (if true) it is but reasonable he should be obliged to account for. Nor is it done in prejudice to such as are immediately concerned as Officers within or without; for would they keep within the bounds of their lawful Salaries and honest Perquisites, which are a sufficient Competency, there could be no occasion of complaint: But for a Steward, whose Salary and due Perquisites amount not to above seven or eight Shilling *per Week* (a tolerable Subsistence for a Man in Confinement, and what several others are as worthy of in their turns (the Election being ordered to be every Month) as he, who by the Deputy Keeper's Management, is like to continue *durante bene placito*) to live like an *Epicure*, frequenting Taverns to unseasonable Hours in the Night, and drinking to excess when within, whilst divers Poor Men and Women are ready to starve for want, cannot but be taken notice of by any one, who has the least Commiseration for his fellow Creatures. And as for the Officers without Door, I shall advise my fellow Citizens, to exert themselves to the utmost in the lawful asserting their Rights and Privileges

vileges against their unjust Usurpations, since our Ancestors have taken so great care to secure them for the ease and benefit of the Poor Prisoners of *Ludgate*, who, if they had any Assistance from Authority, and were not wanting to themselves, need not be oppress'd any longer, or insulted by such as are meer ministerial Officers, and appointed to serve and attend the unhappy Freemen of this Honourable City, that are there confin'd, and who get their Bread by such Poor Men's Misfortunes.

Perhaps it may be expected, that the Names and Number of Prisoners might be found in this Treatise; for the first, the Author desires to be excused, as not being willing to expose them, hoping some of them may have the good Hap to out-live their Misfortunes, and make some Figure in the World again. And as to their Number, the coming in of some and going out of others happening very frequently, makes it very uncertain, but generally speaking, there have not been fewer for these two or three Years, than 70 at a time, (there being computed to be above Hundred in the Year 1710. when there died about Thirty of a raging Fever) some of whom have been there, fourteen

or fifteen, some seven, some five, and several of three or four Years, whose Chamber Rent (generally speaking) at the Rate of 14 *d.* per Week, amounts to much more than their Debts: Many being confin'd there on Executions in the Court of Requests, which never exceed Forty Shillings, and these owing to Tally-men, whose Method of dealing is so unfair and unjustifiable, that many Men are drawn into the Snare before they are aware; and being Poor are not able to extricate themselves by standing a Tryal, but must languish in Confinement, while their Wives and Children become a Charge to the Parish, who (Poor silly Women) have been drawn in to deal with them for themselves, or pass their Word for some of their Neighbours, (nay the Tally-man's taking their Names is sufficient) unknown to their Husbands; who, upon the least deficiency of Payment, are arrested, and for want of Bail confin'd for a Debt they never contracted, and many times knew nothing of: Whence there is no Redemption, till such time as the Keeper has procured Money enough by Petitioning Companies, &c. to satisfy himself and the Tally-men, who are supposed to hold a Correspondence with all the Goal Keepers in

and

and about this City for that end: So that the Money given by Legacies to Prisons is for the most part shared between them: For it is presumed, that (upon enquiry) two thirds of the Prisoners in and about this City, will be found to be confined upon the account of Tally-men, who were they not in expectation to recover their Money by such Methods, would never venture to trust such Poor People as they do. A Matter worthy the Consideration of the Legislature, in regard it brings so many to beggary.

And now having given an account of this Prison, and the lamentable Circumstances of those confined therein, I shall add a few Lines by way of Appeal to Creditors in general. I know Gentlemen, you will argue that the Law is on your side, and that you cannot afford to lose your Debts; and perhaps farther, that if the Persons you prosecute had been careful and diligent in their respective Employments, you might have had no need to have used such Severity. For such indeed I can pretend to make but small Apology, but wish with all my Heart, that such Laws as are already in force might be put in Execution, and where they are deficient others might be made, to prevent those excesses,

too many are inclined to, whereby they waste that which should not only support their Families, but become incapable to satisfy their just Debts; such Debtors there are, and to such a Prison is a due Punishment: Yet this I have to say, till such time as the Wisdom of the Nation shall think fit to make a Law for them to work out their Debt, you will reap no advantage by their Confinement, and their Families becoming a publick Charge, you must in some Measure be contributory thereto. There are others who for want of success at sometimes, and by reason of Casualties at other times, are become Insolvent, and who, if they had time allowed them, might probably retrieve their Misfortunes, and would be so honest as to pay the utmost Farthing when able. To use such with rigour, is not only far from doing as you would be done by, but inhumane and imprudent. For if a Man is not able to pay, the World must needs conclude you revengeful, to dis-able him by Confinement, of supporting himself or Family, or making you Satisfaction, by doing of which you deprive the Commonwealth of a Member, who might some way or other be serviceable in his Generation. And as for the Imprudence of such

Proceeding, I appeal to all Creditors that have tried the experience, whether one in Forty, after exposing the Poor Debtor to be worried, first by Serjeants, Bailiffs, &c. and then letting him be a Year or two under the Paws of their Brother Cannibals the Goal-Keeper's, did ever recover their whole Debt.

There has been of late Years (almost every Session) application made to the Parliament, for the Release of Insolvent Debtors, and indeed it would be a great Act of Charity; but till the fury of revengeful Creditors be restrained, it can only affect the Poor Persons at present in durance, for the Goals will fill again in a little time. Nor does the barbarous Oppression of Goal Keepers a little contribute thereto: For if that were more look'd into, and Debtors taken care for as the Law provides, they would be the better able to stand the shock of their Creditor's revengeful Humour, who finding they could not have their Will to starve a Man, would comply with such Terms as he might probably perform, not bare Confinement, but making Dice of his Bones, being what too many Creditors propose to themselves. And this may serve for an Answer to an Objection, sometime made to the Author, that

that if Prisons were regulated, and the Prisoners enjoy'd the Benefits the Law has provided, a Prison would not be Punishment enough; but from such conclusions

Liberà nos Domine.



FINIS.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

HV Mather, Cotton (47)
9481 The present state of the
L62L86 prison of Ludgate, fully
1725a discovering all its customs,
privileges and advantages,
whereby it exceeds all other
prisons and particularly shewing
...

